

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 570

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 398

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, WB, GW

SUBJECT: LORENZ KIDNAPPING: GROWING CONCERN THAT THIS
IS JUST THE BEGINNING

REF: USBERLIN 396

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1. DURING MEETING WITH ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS MORNING OF MARCH 2, SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ EXPRESSED FEARS, WHICH HE TERMED PERSONAL, BUT WHICH WE BELIEVE REFLECT WIDE-SPREAD FEELING IN SENAT, THAT LORENZ ABDUCTION WAS ONLY "DRESS REHEARSAL" FOR FURTHER KIDNAPPINGS WHICH MIGHT BEGIN AS EARLY AS APRIL OR MAY.

2. HERZ NOTED THAT PERSONS CHOSEN BY LORENZ KIDNAPPERS FOR RELEASE WERE RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT (EXCEPT FOR HORST MAHLER, WHO IN ANY EVENT HAD DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM BAADER-MEINHOF GROUP LAST FALL); THIS ONE REASON FOR BELIEVING THAT PRESENT SITUATION WAS PRACTICE FOR NEXT KIDNAPPING, GOAL OF WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF PRINCIPAL B-M MEMBERS. HERZ CALLED ATTENTION TO KIDNAPPERS' MODEST MONETARY DEMANDS (DM 20,000 FOR EACH FREED PRISONER), REALISTIC DEADLINES (SEVENTY-TWO HOURS FOR FINAL FULFILLMENT) AND FLEXIBILITY (ACCEPTANCE OF TWO-STAGE TRANSPORT). HERZ THOUGHT THAT KIDNAPPERS HAD LEARNED MUCH ABOUT REACTION TIME OF BERLIN AUTHORITIES, MODES OF OPERATION, ETC. BUT REVEALED LITTLE ABOUT THEMSELVES. HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT PRESENT OPERATION BEING CONDUCTED AS MEANS OF LOCATING RELIABLE SAFE-HAVEN ABROAD FOR MORE IMPORTANT GANG MEMBERS. FINALLY, HERZ CALLED ATTENTION TO FACT THAT, JUDGING FROM TRANSPORT DEMANDS, LORENZ ABDUCTORS PLANNING TO REMAIN IN BERLIN. EVEN IF IDENTIFIED BY LORENZ (AND SENAT APPEARS CONVINCED HE WILL BE SET FREE), KIDNAPPERS PROBABLY CONFIDENT THEY CAN CONTINUE ELUDE APPREHENSION. (NOTE: VON DRENKMANN MURDERERS STILL AT LARGE AND ONE OF B-M GANG MEMBERS BELIEVED INVOLVED WITH LORENZ KIDNAPPING HAS BEEN ACTIVELY SOUGHT BY POLICE FOR PAST THREE YEARS.)

3. IN SUPPORT OF HERZ THEORY, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT MURDER OF JUDGE VON DRENKMANN LAST NOVEMBER WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED AS ABDUCTION FOR POSSIBLE EXCHANGE FOR B-M MEMBERS, BUT VON DRENKMANN KILLED WHILE RESISTING. SUPPOSITION THAT LORENZ ABDUCTION FIRST OF SERIES IS ALSO BEGINNING TO BE DISCUSSED IN MEDIA. IT BEING POINTED OUT THAT RESOURCES OF BERLIN AUTHORITIES INSUFFICIENT TO PROTECT EVERY POTENTIAL KIDNAP VICTIM. EVEN IF INCREASED PROTECTION GIVEN TO POLITICIANS, NEXT VICTIM COULD BE

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PROMINENT PERSON IN OTHER WALK OF LIFE -- ACTOR, ATHLETE, JOURNALIST, BANKER, UNION LEADER, ETC. MEDIA COMMENTATORS ALSO POINTED OUT OBVIOUS INTELLIGENCE AND DEDICATION OF LORENZ KIDNAPPERS.

4. MOST LIKELY RESULT OF SPECULATION ON POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE KIDNAPPINGS WILL BE PUBLIC DEMAND FOR MORE VIGOROUS POLICE ACTION AGAINST SUSPECTED ANARCHISTS AND

URBAN TERRORISTS. THERE COULD ALSO BE
SEARCHING QUESTIONS ABOUT FUTURE POLICY IN SUCH CASES;
SEVERAL COMMENTATORS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO QUESTION
WISDOM OF ACCEDING TO DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS.
GEORGE

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